(c) what steps are being taken to remove these drawbacks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) No National Seminar on Housing is reported to have been held in New Delhi on 29th September, 1991. However the undermentioned Workshop/Seminars are reported to have been organised by two non-Government bodies in New Delhi in the last week of September, 1991:—

(1) National meet on Housing Needs. finance, Legislation and Policy organised by the Socio-Economic Research Foundation, New Delhi on 25-27th September, 1991.

(2) Workshop on Structural Adjustment Policies and Living Conditions in India Organised by the National Campaign for Housing Rights on 24-25th September, 1991.

(b) and (c) Government have not yet received the proceedings or recommendation of these Seminars.

Delay in Despatch/delivery of Dak

*27. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that at present there is abnormal delay in despatch and delivery of dak in the country, even for short distances;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for deterioration in the Mail delivery services; and

(c) the steps being contemplated to expedite the delivery of dak?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) No case of recurring delay to mail in any sector has been noticed or reported. Except for a small part of mails, every postal article transits through one or more mail offices depending on the destination. Occasional dislocations in mail system on account of transport failure|unusual bulk of the mail or shortage of operative staff have an adverse effect, which may lead to cumulative delays sometimes.

(b) The reasons for delay to mails are:

(i) Late running|non running of trains|air planes|buses.

(ii) Abrupt shortage of staff|absenteeism.

(iii) Local disturbances like Bundh|Strike etc.

(c) (i) To avoid delay|dislocation, the following steps have been initiated:

(1) Better quality control checks by the Supervisors.

(2) More effective liaison with transport system.

(ii) To improve delivery at destination, system of delivery of mails has been restructured. The number of deliveries of receipted mail has been increased from one to two and the number of deliveries of ordinary mail from two to three in big cities. This restructuring will ensure that maximum volume of mail is given out for delivery on the day of receipt in post offices.

Irrigation Financial Corporation of Bhopal

*28. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to establish an Irrigation Financial Corporation with its headquarters at Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh to extend funds for execution of certain projects;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) by when the Irrigation Financial Corporation is likely to be established?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Subsidy for Elementary and Secondary Education

*29. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a bulk of the expenditure on education in the country is in the form of subsidies;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what percentage of this subsidy is earmarked for the elementary and secondary education respectively;

(c) whether Government propose to reduce the quantum of subsidy on higher education; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) The budget of the Central Government does not provide for any subsidy in education. However, since the fee collected from students is less than the actual cost of providing education it can be said in a general sense that education is subsidised.

(b) According to the information available with the Government only 7.5 per cent of the total cost of education is met by the fees charged from students. The sector-wise and source-wise percentage contribution towards the cost of education is as under:—

Sector	Contral Government	State Government & UT Admns.	Local Government	Fees	Other Sources
Elementary Education .	0.92	86.29	10.95	0.91	0.93
Secondary Education .	1.81	81.56	5.94	7.57	3.12
Higher Education . .	7.00	62.68	1.11	12.78	16.43

(c) and (d) The endeavour of the Government would be, in a phased manner, to reduce the element of subsidy in higher and technical education. The details in this behalf have not been worked out.

Indira Gandhi Nahar Project

*30. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state whether there has been a manifold increase in the initial cost estimates of the Indira Gandhi Nahar Project (IGNP), under construction, if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): The initial estimated cost of the Indira Gandhi Canal Project envisag-